

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 5, 7–9, 11–12, 35 have been amended. Claims 2–4, 6, 13–19, 30, 47 have been canceled. The amendments to the claims are based on material disclosed in the originally filed specification, claims, and drawings. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the claims do not add new matter.

Arguments in support of the novelty of the claims in view of Poklucar (art of record)

Claim 1, as amended includes the following limitations:

A method of closing an end of a bag during its manufacture, the method including:
starting with an elongate tubular member having opposed ends, at least one end of which defines an open mouth , forming a folded portion comprising folding opposed portions of the tubular member to extend at least partially across the mouth;
positioning a panel to extend across the folded portion so that a main portion of the panel covers the folded portion and a remainder portion extends beyond the folded portion; and
securing the main portion of the panel and the folded portion together thereby to form closure for the mouth;
forming a handle for the bag using the remainder portion of the panel; wherein the handle is integral with the closure.

(Claim, 1, underlining for emphasis)

Poklucar does not disclose a method of closing an end of a bag during its manufacture. Instead, Poklucar discloses a bag handle for mounting on a bag (see Title and Technical Field in Poklucar).

Poklucar does not disclose forming a closure for the month. The bag in Poklucar is already formed and Poklucar merely discloses attaching a handle to the bag. In other words with Poklucar, the bag to which the handle is attached already has a closure (see the drawings of Poklucar).

With Poklucar the handle is attached to the bag and is not integral with the closure.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Poklukur does not disclose the emphasized limitations of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claim 1 in view of Poklukur.

Claims 5, 7-12, and 35-39 include imitations similar in scope to the above-discussed imitations of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted but these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by Poklukur or any of the other combinations of Poklukur proposed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicant. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney or agent at the telephone number indicated below.

If not provided for in a separate paper filed herewith, please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for sufficient number of months to enter these papers and please charge any additional required fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 503437.

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Respectfully submitted,
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By /Vani Moodley/

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